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DOCKET NO. T-00000A-97-0238

IN THE MATTER OF U S WEST

COMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 271 OF THE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

AT&T'S COMMENTS ON IMPACT TO SECTION 271 DOCKET BECAUSE OF CERTAIN PARTIES INABILITY TO PARTICIPATE

AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc., and TCG Phoenix (collectively "AT&T") hereby file their comments on the impact of certain parties inability to participate in the Section 271 process.

By the Procedural Order dated December 20, 2002, "the parties shall have until January 10, 2003, to submit additional evidence and to comment on the impact, if any, on certain parties inability to participate in the Section 271 process." The Procedural Order is based on Staff's recommended procedures set forth in its October 4, 2002 Staff Report.

In July 2002, Staff held a workshop "to allow parties who believe they were precluded from raising any issues during the course of this case, to put their issues into the record for resolution." Extensive comments were filed by Eschelon Telecom, Inc., raising a substantial number of unresolved issues related to Qwest's compliance with the competitive checklist contained in Section 271 and Qwest's operational support systems ("OSS"). It is AT&T's understanding that Staff will release two reports based on the

¹ Notice from Maureen Scott, Attorney, Legal Division, dated July 24, 2002, to all parties in Docket No. T-00000A-97-0238.

results of the workshop – one addressing the competitive checklist and one addressing OSS issues. Staff has not yet released these reports.

AT&T believes that the issues raised by the competitive local exchange carriers ("CLECs) in the July workshop reflect issues that went unaddressed and unresolved because of provisions in the secret agreements that prevented certain CLECs from participating in the Section 271 process. In fact, had the CLECs not been prohibited from participating in the Section 271 process, the workshops would not have been held.

Therefore, the Staff reports are extremely relevant to the issues in the sub-docket because the reports will reflect numerous issues that were not addressed in the Section 271 process and remained unresolved because of the CLECs inability to participate. AT&T has assumed these reports would be released before its comments were due in the sub-docket. Had the reports been released, AT&T would have pointed these issues out in its comments and identified the impacts on the Section 271 process.

It is AT&T's position that the issues raised in the two Staff reports must be reflected in Staff's Proposed Order in the sub-docket. AT&T does not ask that comments be postponed until the Staff reports are released; however, AT&T will file exceptions to Staff's Proposed Order to the extent Staff's Proposed Order fails to adequately identify the issues raised in the July workshop and in Staff's subsequent reports.²

² Staff need not propose a resolution of the workshop issues in its Proposed Order in the sub-docket. However, AT&T would hope that Staff would acknowledge that these issues would have been addressed earlier in the Section 271 process had the CLECs not been precluded from participating in the Section 271 process. The fact that a workshop had to be held in July 2002 and that Staff must release additional reports to address previously unaddressed and unresolved issues surely reflect impacts on the Section 271 process.

AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MOUNTAIN STATES, INC., AND TCG PHOENIX

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

(Docket No. T-00000A-97-0238)

I certify that the original and 13 copies of AT&T's Comments on Impact to Section 271 Docket Because of Parties Inability to Participate were sent by overnight delivery on January 8, 2003 to:

Arizona Corporation Commission Docket Control – Utilities Division 1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007

and a true and correct copy was sent by overnight delivery on January 8, 2003 to:

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and a true and correct copy was sent by U. S. Mail on January 8, 2003 to:

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